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then, injures the capacity for self-control or temperance, which cannot be as great or complete with alcohol as without it.

El Cráneo y la Locura. DR. W. RODRIGUEZ. Buenos-Ayres, 1888.

The purpose of the book is to study the relations between the form of the cranium and mental diseases. The results are from the study of 532 cases. These might be questioned, since an apparatus called the conformitor (used by hatters), was employed in obtaining the anterior-posterior and bilateral diameters with the aid of Broca's compass. The form of the cranium is an important element in the diagnosis of insanity. The majority of cases show a striking asymmetry; there is a marked predominance in the lateral posterior regions. In the maniacs the anterior-posterior diameter is greater than the average. In cases of dementia, there is a twisting movement of the head with an exaggerated development of the parietal eminences. There is always a predominance of the frontal lobes in the general paralytics. In idiots and cretins the lines which form the contour of the head are very irregular; there is also an exaggerated development of the occipital protuberance. The author is consulting physician and director of the Argentine Medical Society for nervous diseases. It is interesting to hear what an authority from South America says.

La Contagion du Meurtre, étude anthropologique criminelle. Le Dr. PAUL AUBRY. Paris, 1888. pp. 184.

The phenomenon of morbid psychology, which the author considers, is a combination of suggestion, imitation, heredity and contagion. Contagion may arise from family influence, as in the case of the child raised in crime, who sees his parents profit from it; or it may come from contact with prisoners. If the child goes to the house of correction, the case is no better, as contagion has a hold on him. A good man rarely comes from a criminal family, but a bad man frequently comes from a good family. Reformation from prison life is a myth. Lacenaire, a most celebrated criminal, himself says: when a young man enters prison and hears of the grand exploits of the others, he regrets that he had not been a greater criminal himself. Contagion comes from public executions; those who quit the prison assemble at public executions to see the blood, which for them has special attraction. Out of 177 persons condemned to death only three had not been present at other executions. The indirect contagion of the press is an established fact. In 1885, in Geneva, Switzerland, a woman killed her four children, then tried to commit suicide; in her autobiography were these words, "As a woman did it, which was in the newspaper." Tropicman, a celebrated criminal, confessed that the cause of his demoralization, was the reading of novels by which he developed a strong passion for heroes of the prison. If such reading influences a sound mind, its effect on the weak minded and insane is still worse. The reading of the details of crime first produces repulsion, then indifference; soon crime is looked upon with complacency, and after this, overt acts may follow with less difficulty.

There is the contagion to vitriolize or to use the revolver. A woman wishes simply to disfigure some enemy; she has read in the paper how another woman accomplished this and was acquitted with the congratulations of the jury and with public applause, how everyone talked about her, how her picture was in the paper; she finds vitriolizing convenient, and imitates her model. Those who use the pistol are not so contemptible as the vitriolizers, though the results may be more fatal. Poisoning was once the royal and aristocratic mode of disposing of persons, but owing to the advancement of chemical science, it is now comparatively infrequent, and if resorted to, it is generally by the